



TRI-COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION

Meeting minutes of Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7 PM

Green County Courthouse, Monroe WI

Present: Committee members –Heimann, Wolfe, and Bartels of Lafayette County, Blumer and Torkelson from Green County. Schilling and Winters had excused absences and Butteris from Iowa County was also absent. Interested club members present were: Deb and Shelly Krahenbuhl, Lee and Paul McCarville, Fuzzy North and Bob Voegeli.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Heimann at 7:00 PM and he asked if the meeting was properly posted. Tom Jean verified the meeting was posted at the Green, Lafayette and Iowa County Courthouses, Darlington Municipal Building, the Lafayette County Highway Dept. and on the website. Mr. Heimann declared this to be a properly posted legal meeting with enough members present to constitute a quorum.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Bartels and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019, meeting was made by Mr. Bartels and seconded by Mr. Torkelson. The motion carried.

Discussion and update on the status of the DNR grant funding for the projects along the Cheese Country Trail: Tom reported that he is still working with FEMA to get all of the reimbursement from the July 2017 flood damage and that all of the maintenance funds from the 2018-2019 ATV/UTV and Snowmobile grants have been used either for snow grooming or for flood clean up and trail repair. Tom has applied for the 2019-2020 funds and included a request for \$88,490 additional money for trail rehabilitation to repair the Cheese Country Trail to pre-flood conditions. The same request was made to the Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency and to the Off Road Council. We are just waiting to hear if any of them come through with any additional funding.

Discussion and update on general maintenance/signage or encroachment issues along the Cheese Country Trail along with Trail Maintenance Update – Local ATV & Snowmobile Clubs:

Following the flooding of March 2019, it looked like it would be several weeks and maybe even months before the Cheese Country Trail would be opened for the public to use. Tom and the Highway Dept. and Lee McCarville and his crew worked together to clean up the debris, add material where needed and grade to make it passable by early April.

While the trail is far from perfect, there have been a lot of riders that are glad it's open at all. When the funding situation is resolved, more material can be added to the washed out areas.

The snowmobile clubs have used the majority of their funds for grooming this past winter. The remainder of the funds have been used for flood clean up.

Legislative update: None

Trail Coordinators Salary and duties:

Tom reported that due to the increase of his responsibilities and the impact that the coordinators salary has on his income tax, it is no longer feasible to do the coordinators job for the \$4,000 annual contract. By being a contract employee, he must pay self-employment tax along with income tax and he ends up paying about 45% in taxes. Following some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Blumer to increase the coordinator's salary from \$4,000 to \$5,000 annually. The motion carried. In a related matter, Deb Krahenbuhl is retiring from the Lafayette County Finance Dept. Deb has been instrumental in creating the vouchers for the Tri County Trail Commission, which in turn get approved by the audit committee and generates a check from the County to pay the bills. With Deb no longer employed by the County, this creates an issue as to who creates the necessary voucher and enters it into the County accounting system. Following some discussion, Deb has agreed to remain as co-coordinator of the Tri County Trails Commission for a salary of \$1,040 per year, and will continue to assist Tom in that capacity. She will get paid directly from the Tri County ATV Club for her duties and they will bill the Tri County Trail Commission for her services. A motion to approve this arrangement was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Blumer. The motion carried.

Public comment: None.

Fencing Request: None

Status of Funds: Tom presented the Status of funds which showed the 2018/2019 expenditures. The ATV/UTV fund balance shows a deficit of \$11,887.89 and the snowmobile funds show a balance of \$8,967.50. It should be noted that not all of the snowmobile funds have been turned in and therefore that balance is probably a lot less. A motion to approve the Status of Fund report was made by Mr. Torkelson and seconded by Mr. Wolfe and the motion carried.

Vouchers: Vouchers presented for payment were: Blackhawk Riders for grooming (\$2,079.00) – Fayette Sno Goers for grooming (\$2,772.00) – Fayette Sno Goers for maintenance (\$54.50) – Ivey Construction for Flood Damage (\$790.08) – Stateline Trailblazers for grooming (\$560.00) – T Riders Snowmobile Club for non-grooming expenses (\$2,733.00) – Tri County ATVer's for non-grooming expenses (\$4,265.00) - WISNET.com for website renewal (\$25.00). The total of all vouchers was \$13,278.58. A motion to approve the vouchers was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Bartels and the motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Torkelson and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.